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2 May 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM:

Director of Scientific and Weapons Research

SUBJECT: Chairmanship of the Joint Atomic Energy  
Intelligence Committee (JAEIC)

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1. In principle, we favor sharing the responsibility for providing chairmen for all the NFIB committees, including JAEIC. However, there are certain practical considerations that argue strongly against relinquishing the JAEIC Chairmanship at this time.

2. First, the committee has had to grapple with increasingly severe pressures from the DoD [redacted] DOE, with sharp differences of opinion between LANL and LLNL [redacted] has its own problems. I believe that the committee's responsibility for providing independent judgments on this and other controversial nuclear intelligence issues requires CIA leadership.

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3. As you know, Community perceptions of JAEIC's leadership and overall effectiveness have not been very positive in recent years. The problems are threefold: substance [redacted] structure (unwieldy Working Group arrangements); and style (leadership reluctance in assigning priorities and setting deadlines). We have been working on a plan for addressing all of these deficiencies, and have obtained DIA and DOE concurrence on the general strategy.

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4. We have the right strategy, and we have the dynamic leadership necessary for its implementation. [redacted] is thoroughly familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of JAEIC, by virtue of his fourteen years in the nuclear intelligence community. More importantly, the committee members and alternates respect his leadership style, in contrast to the previous situation.

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5. The JAEIC, of course, is not a CIA entity. In order to ensure wider Community participation in the committee's substantive activities, our plan for revitalizing JAEIC emphasizes improvements in the Working Group structure--associate membership for the three major DOE labs and periodic rotation of Working Group chairmen. In this way, we can draw on the expertise and leadership capabilities available in the rest of the nuclear intelligence community. Finally, we envision a non-CIA Vice Chairman, probably the current DIA member.

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6. Although the DCI's Nuclear Intelligence Panel is not a JAEIC responsibility per se, I believe strongly that there should be more interaction between the NIP subpanels and the JAEIC Working Groups in identifying issues worthy of NIP review. However, the NIP as presently constituted is far too large a group, and needs to be restructured and revitalized. If CIA retains leadership of JAEIC, we would be better able to carry out this restructuring and revitalizing of the NIP.

7. In sum, as I said in the first paragraph, we are not averse to having another Agency chair JAEIC, but not right now. JAEIC is in shambles, and we need to straighten it out before passing it on.

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